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920476-904862

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DATE: April 5, 2004

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FROM: William M. Lee, Jr.

TO: Examiner: Dzong D. Tran  
Art Unit: 2633  
The United States Patent and Trademark Office

MAIL STOP Responses No Fee

Attached: Response To Office Action Of January 5, 2004

If you do not receive all pages, please contact William M. Lee, Jr. at (312) 214-4800 or his assistant, Jennifer Ramirez at (312) 214-4829.

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920476-904862

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of : Sparks, Adrian  
Serial No. : 09/745,890  
Filed : December 21, 2000  
For : Load Sharing Nodes in A Network Utilising Shared  
Optical Protection  
Examiner : Tran, Dzung, D  
Art Unit : 2633  
Customer number : 23644

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the above - identified examiner  
at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (703) 872-9314 on April 5, 2004.

Name of person signing Jennifer J. Ramirez

Signature [Signature]

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JANUARY 05, 2004**

Honorable Director of Patents and Trademarks  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir,

In response to the Office Action mailed January 5, 2004, the applicants  
respond as follows.